

EUROPEAN ECONOMY

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Supplement B
Business and consumer
survey results
No 6 – June 1990

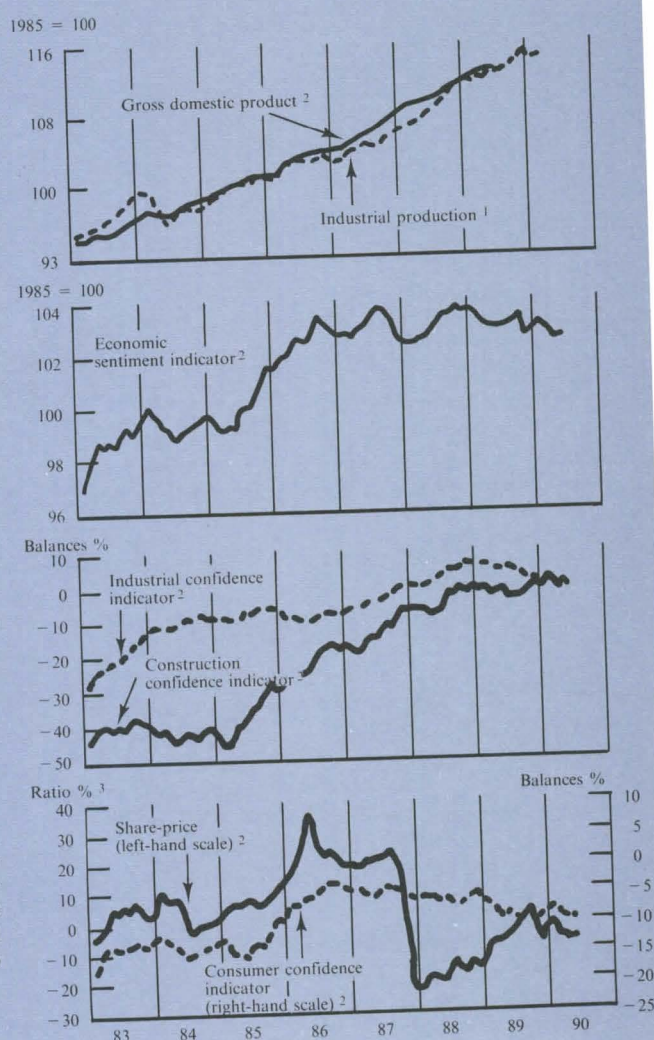


*In this number:
International indicators*

THE MAIN POINTS IN BRIEF:

- Economic growth is continuing at a high level in the Community, and there are no discernible signs of it weakening. This can be seen from the economic sentiment indicators available to May.
- For three months the Community leading economic sentiment indicator has remained at a high level, helped both by the stability of company judgments and the continuing firmness of consumer confidence in the economy.
- However, the international indicators have recently been pointing to somewhat more restrained growth in the world economy. According to the indicator for developments in world production, at least a pause has occurred in the expansionary phase of world economic activity since the beginning of 1990.
- According to the most recent survey results, the managers of multinational companies are also somewhat less favourable in their assessment of the present situation in the world economy than they were as recently as in October 1989 and January of this year. Nevertheless the April results concerning future economic activity in the next six to twelve months indicate an assessment more optimistic than it was three months ago (see Graph 3). This suggests that world economic growth is not expected to slacken to any appreciable extent.

GRAPH 1: Indicators of output and economic sentiment — European Community

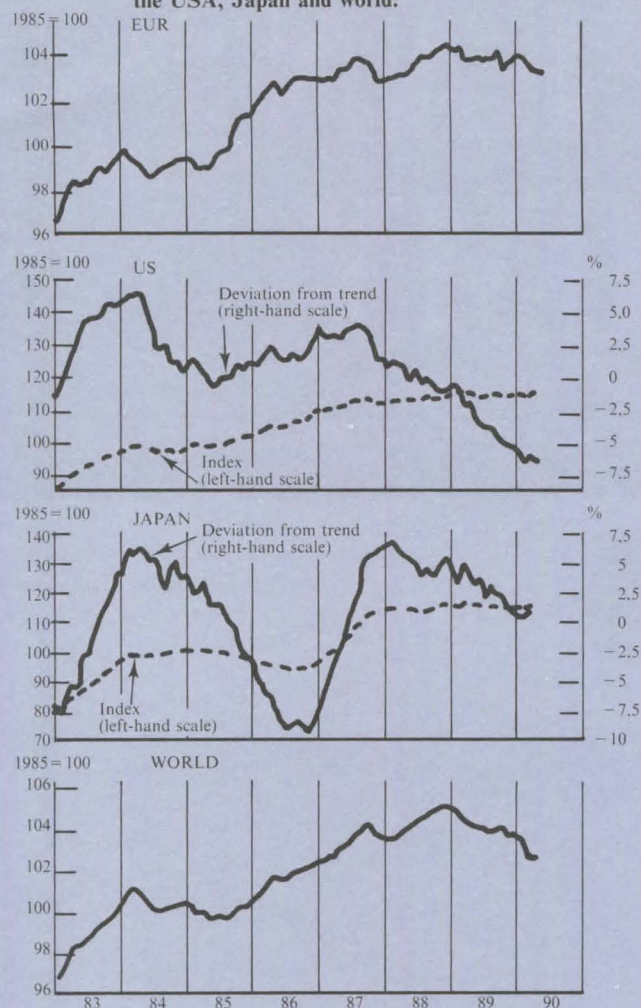


¹ Three-month moving average.

² See notes to Table 3.

³ Deviations from trend in %.

GRAPH 2: Leading indicators for the European Community, the USA, Japan and world.



Sources: Commission of the European Communities. US Department of Trade. Economic Planning Agency of the Japanese Government.

Economic growth remains at a high level in the Community. — Economic growth is still continuing in the Community and at present there are no signs of the momentum slackening. This can be seen from the economic sentiment indicators available to May. For three months the Community leading economic sentiment indicator has remained at a high level, helped by the stability of company judgments and the continuing firmness of consumer confidence in the economy.

The engine of economic growth in the Community is still domestic demand, chiefly investment-led. Also, the stability of consumer confidence has remained unchanged for months. According to the most recent consumer survey results, the purchasing intentions of consumers seem to be growing firmer. At the same time the retail survey results indicate that retailers are optimistic about their present business situation which is expected to improve even further in the next few months. Since the foreign exchange markets are largely stable and world trade is brisk, the stimuli emanating from foreign trade should not be underestimated either. As a result of the high level of capacity utilization and the pressure on all available resources, there have recently been signs of more imports being sucked in.

International leading indicators point to more restrained growth in the world economy. — Since the beginning of 1990, the leading indicator for developments in world production has been signalling that at least a pause has occurred in the expansionary phase of world economic activity. The United States leading indicator is still behind the long-term trend whereas the overall economic sentiment indicator for Japan seems to be announcing an upward change in trend direction.

Less optimism in the Economic Survey International (ESI) results for the world economic situation. — The most recent results of the world-wide survey among managers of multinational companies give a less favourable picture of the *present situation in the world economy* in April than they did as recently as in October 1989 and in January of this year (see Graph 3). This tendency is reflected in the experts' forecasts for world economic growth in 1990 which, according to the April estimates, is now expected to stand at 3 % (January 1990: 3.2 %). Nevertheless the April results concerning *future economic activity* in the next six to twelve months indicate an assessment which is again somewhat more optimistic than in January. However, this has not yet been reflected in the quantitative evaluation of growth.

The largely positive appraisal of the situation in the world economy is also supported by the optimistic assessment of world trade. The experts questioned are expecting *imports* to go on growing in the coming months. Their expectations concerning *exports* are virtually the same as the values in their assessment of imports. This corroborates April's largely positive evaluation of world trade.

TABLE 1: Current important problems taking the average for the world economy — percentage of answers of all survey participants —

Survey period	Unemployment	Shortage of (skilled) labour	International competitiveness	Inflation	Budget deficits
	%	%	%	%	%
Jan. 1989	41.3	29.4	33.3	41.3	47.2
April 1989	41.4	32.0	30.8	52.3	44.7
July 1989	40.4	32.9	30.3	52.8	45.4
Oct. 1989	39.2	34.6	34.3	47.1	48.1
Jan. 1990	40.6	34.2	35.7	51.5	42.1
April 1990	37.1	39.5	44.2	51.9	30.5

Source: IFO Institute: Economic Survey International.

The problems which the experts regard as important for their national economy generally indicate that the assessment of the situation in the world economy will continue to be positive. While unemployment has lost in importance since January of last year, the experts complain about the increasingly apparent shortage of skilled labour. They also observe a deterioration in international competitiveness, denoting an intensification of international competition. With inflation expectations increasing slightly, the problem of public budget deficits recently no longer seems to be the main cause of imbalances (see Table 1).

TABLE 2: Evaluation (a) of major currencies — average of all countries covered —

Survey period	USD	DM	UKL	Yen
Sept. 1987	3.9	4.8	5.1	5.2
Sept. 1988	4.9	4.4	5.5	4.8
Jan. 1989	4.5	4.2	5.3	4.4
April 1989	4.8	4.0	5.5	4.4
Sept. 1989	5.4	4.7	5.8	4.2
Jan. 1990	5.5	3.6	5.7	3.6
April 1990	4.7	4.6	5.2	3.6

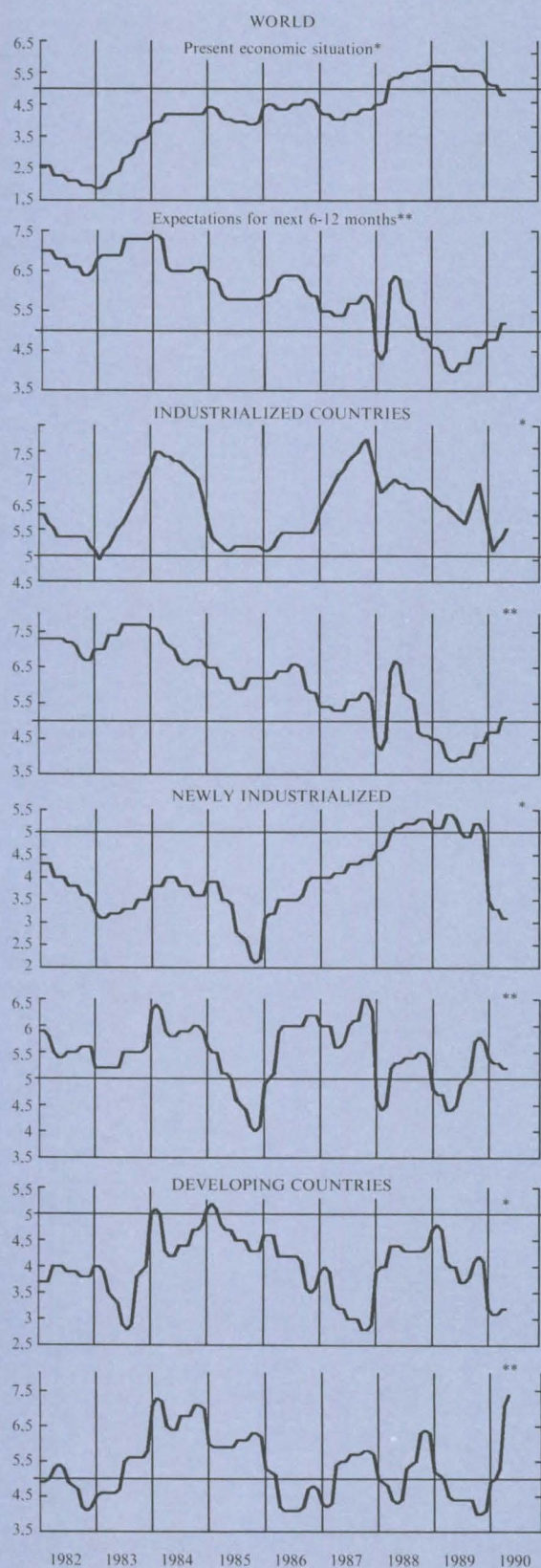
(a) 9 = overvalued, 5 = correctly valued, 1 = undervalued.

Source: IFO Institute: Economic Survey International (ESI).

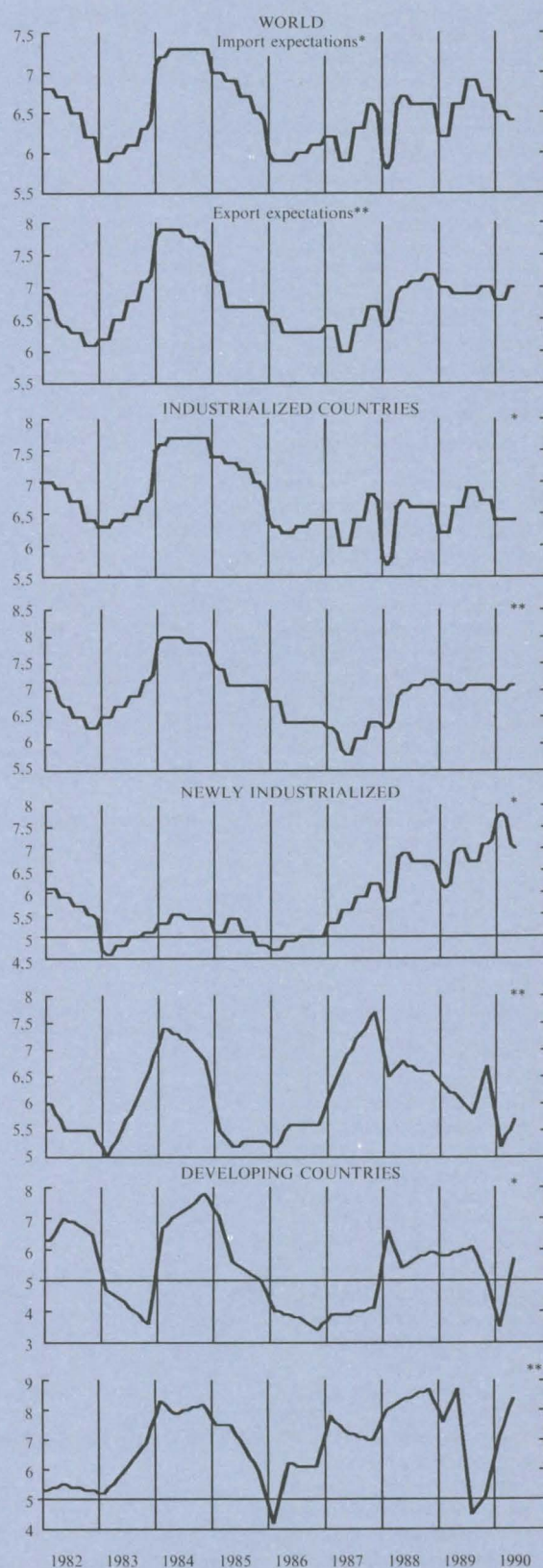
As recently as January, the experts questioned were still of the opinion that the German mark and the yen tended to be undervalued vis-à-vis their own currency, whereas in April they inclined more to the view that the yen was the only one of the major currencies which still clearly needed to be upvalued. In April the experts questioned considered the dollar, German mark and sterling to be correctly valued. Nevertheless, in the same month they judged the dollar and German mark on average still to be stronger than sterling. Also in April, a change took place in the evaluation of the German mark, possibly because of German unification.

GRAPHS 3-4: 'Economic survey international'

GRAPH 3: Present economic situation and expectations for the next six to twelve months



GRAPH 4: Import and export expectations for the next six to twelve months



The Economic Survey International has been conducted by the Ifo-Institute 4 times per year (January, April, July and October) and is based on the answers of about 500 economic experts in about 50 countries. The replies are 'graded': positive responses (+) receive a grade of 9, indifferent ones (=) a grade of 5 and negative ones (-) a grade of 1. Grades between 5 and 9 imply a preponderance of positive replies or increases, while grades between 5 and 1 indicate that negative replies or decreases predominated.

Source: IFO-Institute for Economic Research, Munich.

TABLE 3: Indicators of output and economic sentiment

		Ranges				1989	1989		1990	1989	1990					
		Peak 1972/73	Trough 1974/75	Peak 1979/80	Trough 1981/83		III	IV	I	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	
B	gross domestic product	1985 = 100	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
	index of industrial production		:	:	:	113,1	113,3	114,6	:	117,0	:	:	:	:	:	
	1. industrial confidence indicator		19	-56	-4	-35	0	1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	-3	
	2. construction confidence indicator		9	-36	-7	-65	-5	-7	-3	4	-4	2	7	2	-2	-3
	3. consumer confidence indicator		7	-18	-7	-31	1	3	3	3	3	3	5	2	1	1
	4. share-price index (c)		:	:	:	:	203,8	209,9	211,0	193,0	210,3	201,2	179,5	198,4	197,1	198,8
= 5. economic sentiment indicator			109,0	98,9	103,9	96,8	105,8	106,1	106,1	106,0	106,0	106,0	106,3	105,7	105,3	105,1
DK	gross domestic product	1985 = 100	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
	index of industrial production		:	:	:	107,1	106,0	106,5	111,3	105,4	111,5	109,3	111,0	:	:	
	1. industrial confidence indicator		:	:	-22	4	5	4	2	(4)	2	(2)	(2)	2	(2)	
	2. construction confidence indicator		:	:	-37	-24	-32	-24	-14	(-24)	-14	(-14)	(-14)	-23	(-23)	
	3. consumer confidence indicator		:	-16	5	-22	-14	-15	-12	-6	-10	-4	-8	-5	-8	-8
	4. share-price index (c)		:	:	:	132,7	140,8	139,9	149,0	145,2	150,8	147,6	148,7	143,3	144,8	
= 5. economic sentiment indicator			:	:	:	99,0	99,1	99,3	99,7	99,4	99,8	99,6	99,6	99,4	99,4	
D	gross domestic product	1985 = 100	:	:	:	:	111,4	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
	index of industrial production		:	:	:	111,3	112,7	113,1	113,9	114,1	115,2	113,7	112,8	:	:	
	1. industrial confidence indicator		10	-49	2	-40	5	5	5	7	6	7	7	7	8	8
	2. construction confidence indicator		-4	-72	11	-64	-15	-16	-7	1	-3	-2	3	1	-1	-4
	3. consumer confidence indicator		:	-22	9	-31	1	3	2	4	3	6	5	1	4	4
	4. share-price index (c)		:	:	:	133,1	142,0	143,9	164,7	150,0	161,5	164,8	167,7	169,0	164,5	
= 5. economic sentiment indicator			103,8	97,0	103,6	94,7	101,7	102,1	102,2	103,0	102,6	103,2	103,2	102,7	103,1	102,9
F	gross domestic product	1985 = 100	:	:	:	:	111,5	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
	index of industrial production		:	:	:	112,8	113,5	113,4	112,8	112,3	113,9	111,9	112,7	:	:	
	1. industrial confidence indicator		29	-49	5	-39	8	8	4	0	3	1	0	-1	-4	-3
	2. construction confidence indicator		:	:	-17	-57	-4	-6	-7	-3	(-7)	-3	(-3)	(-3)	-4	(-4)
	3. consumer confidence indicator		:	-9	3	-27	-11	-11	-11	-10	-11	-10	-11	-9	-10	-12
	4. share-price index (c)		:	:	:	220,9	230,9	236,7	237,9	243,9	243,5	233,8	236,4	249,2	254,1	
= 5. economic sentiment indicator			107,8	97,6	101,8	95,1	105,0	104,8	104,5	104,5	104,5	104,6	104,3	104,5	104,3	104,0
IRL	gross domestic product	1985 = 100	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
	index of industrial production		:	:	:	141,4	140,3	147,9	:	152,7	146,3	146,0	:	:	:	
	1. industrial confidence indicator		:	-41	20	-40	10	11	12	4	10	8	5	-1	5	0
	2. construction confidence indicator		:	:	:	-60	24	30	25	19	(25)	19	(19)	(19)	14	(14)
	3. consumer confidence indicator		:	-41	12	-44	-7	-5	-6	-5	-4	-3	-6	-5	-4	-3
	4. share-price index (c)		:	:	:	281,5	294,7	294,9	312,4	294,4	307,9	320,0	309,4	297,6	285,7	
= 5. economic sentiment indicator			109,1	96,7	103,6	98,1	104,5	104,9	104,7	104,5	104,8	104,8	104,4	104,2	104,4	104,2
I	gross domestic product	1985 = 100	:	:	:	:	113,3	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
	index of industrial production		:	:	:	117,9	119,4	120,1	:	121,4	117,0	118,5	:	:	:	
	1. industrial confidence indicator		31	-59	13	-41	8	7	3	5	3	5	5	4	3	5
	2. construction confidence indicator		-8	-56	-5	-51	-5	-4	9	13	10	8	16	16	11	21
	3. consumer confidence indicator		:	:	:	:	-6	-6	-6	-4	-6	-4	-4	-3	-2	-1
	4. share-price index (c)		:	:	:	213,1	236,5	216,6	213,1	215,5	221,3	209,0	208,9	215,9	224,3	
= 5. economic sentiment indicator			103,8	97,4	101,6	97,6	101,8	101,9	101,7	102,1	101,7	102,1	102,1	102,1	102,2	102,6
NL	gross domestic product	1985 = 100	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
	index of industrial production		:	:	:	105,8	106,4	110,0	101,6	113,6	107,6	99,2	98,0	:	:	
	1. industrial confidence indicator		12	-44	4	-31	1	1	1	0	0	-1	1	0	0	1
	2. construction confidence indicator		3	-47	3	-46	1	3	5	1	3	3	-1	1	-3	-3
	3. consumer confidence indicator		6	-15	5	-37	9	10	11	8	10	10	7	7	6	6
	4. share-price index (c)		:	:	:	136,0	143,8	139,8	137,0	143,5	138,8	135,3	137,0	138,6	141,5	
= 5. economic sentiment indicator			107,8	100,7	105,3	97,1	102,9	103,2	103,2	102,5	103,0	102,8	102,3	102,3	102,1	102,2
UK	gross domestic product	1985 = 100	:	:	:	:	116,4	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
	index of industrial production		:	:	:	110,4	111,0	111,6	110,7	110,7	110,5	109,8	111,8	:	:	
	1. industrial confidence indicator		:	:	9	-60	-2	-3	-10	-12	-10	-8	-12	-16	-10	-14
	2. construction confidence indicator		:	:	7	-62	29	26	14	-5	(14)	-5	(-5)	(-5)	-11	(-11)
	3. consumer confidence indicator		:	-33	14	-26	-18	-18	-24	-24	-21	-19	-22	-30	-29	-31
	4. share-price index (c)		:	:	:	176,5	189,1	179,1	181,4	185,1	186,6	180,5	177,1	172,7	176,7	
= 5. economic sentiment indicator			103,8	97,7	104,9	98,8	101,7	101,7	100,3	99,7	100,4	100,4	99,7	98,9	99,1	98,7
EUR	gross domestic product (a)(b)	1985 = 100	:	:	:	:	112,9	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
	index of industrial production		:	:	:	112,8	112,9	114,5	114,6	114,8	114,8	113,7	115,3	:	:	
	1. industrial confidence indicator		16	-49	3	-36	4	4	1	0	1	1	0	-1	0	-1
	2. construction confidence indicator		:	:	-1	-50	-2	-3	0	1	(2)	-1	(2)	(2)	-2	(-1)
	3. consumer confidence indicator		5	-17	1	-22	-6	-6	-7	-6	-6	-5	-6	-7	-7	-7
	4. share-price index (c)		:	:	:	172,1	183,2	179,0	184,2	184,4	187,4	182,3	182,9	183,4	185,5	
= 5. economic sentiment indicator			107,5	96,6	104,1	97,4	103,8	103,9	103,5	103,7	103,8	104,0	103,7	103,4	103,3	103,3

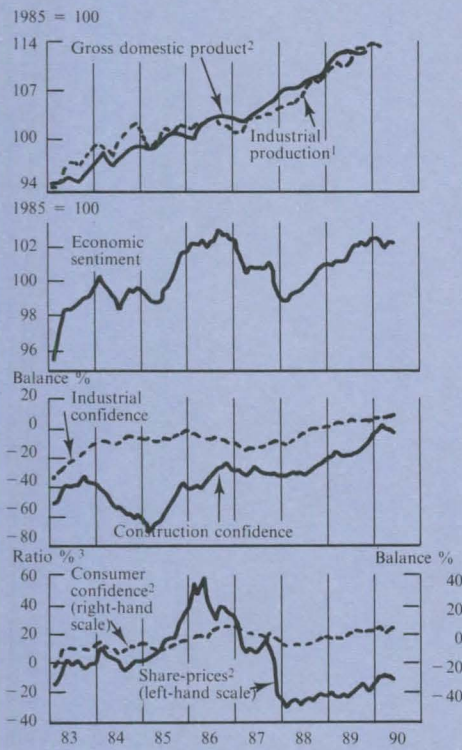
(a) Weighted total of quarterly figures for the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy and the UK.

(b) For the Federal Republic of Germany, gross national product for quarterly data.

(c) Not seasonally adjusted.

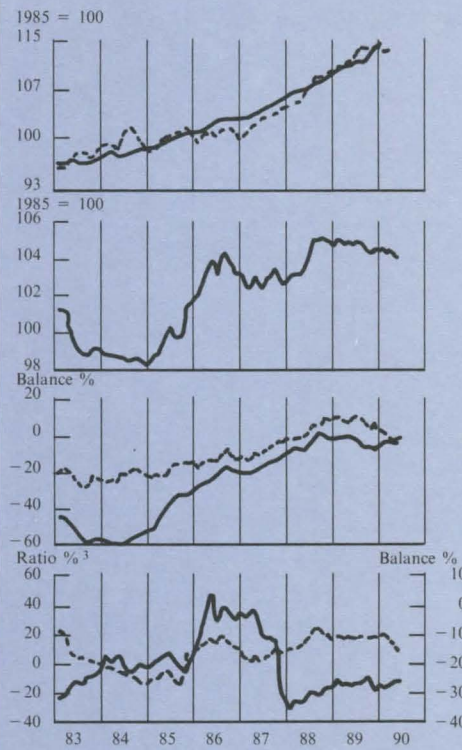
GRAPHS 5-10: Indicators of output and economic sentiment

GRAPH 5: Federal Republic of Germany



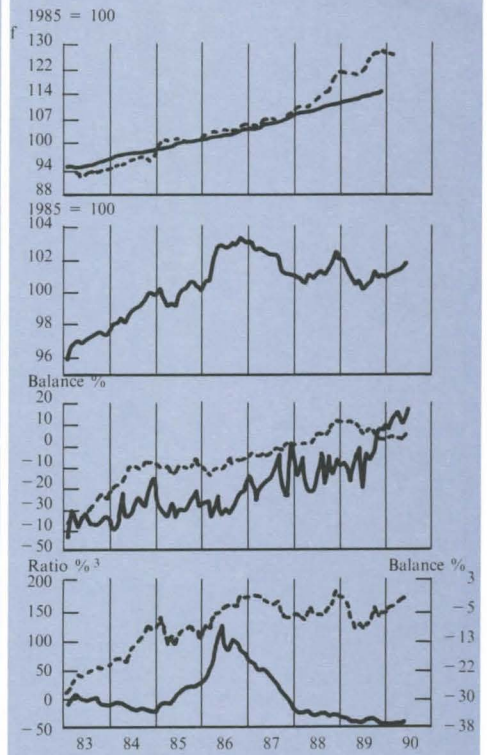
¹ Three-month moving average.
² See notes to Table 3.
³ Deviations from trend in %.

GRAPH 6: France



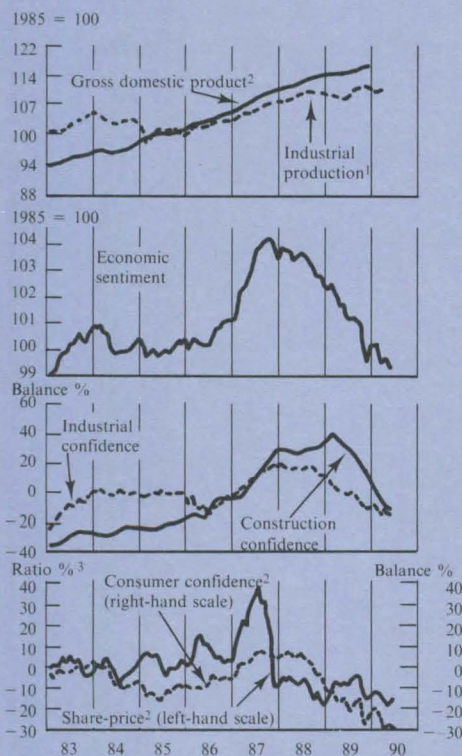
For explanations, see Graph 5.

GRAPH 7: Italy



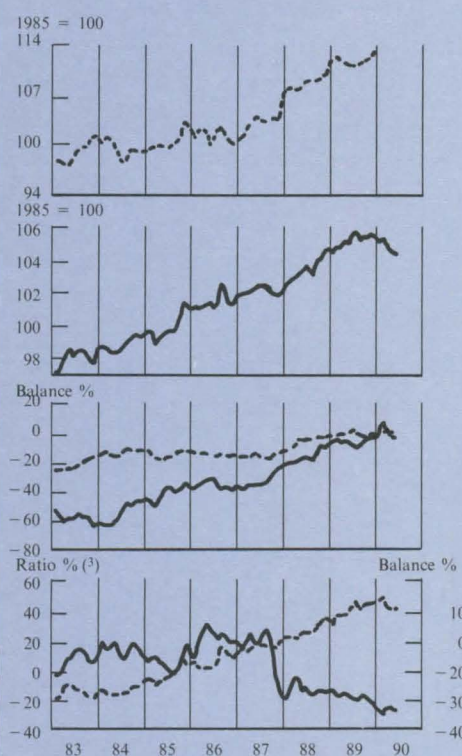
For explanations, see Graph 5.

GRAPH 8: United Kingdom



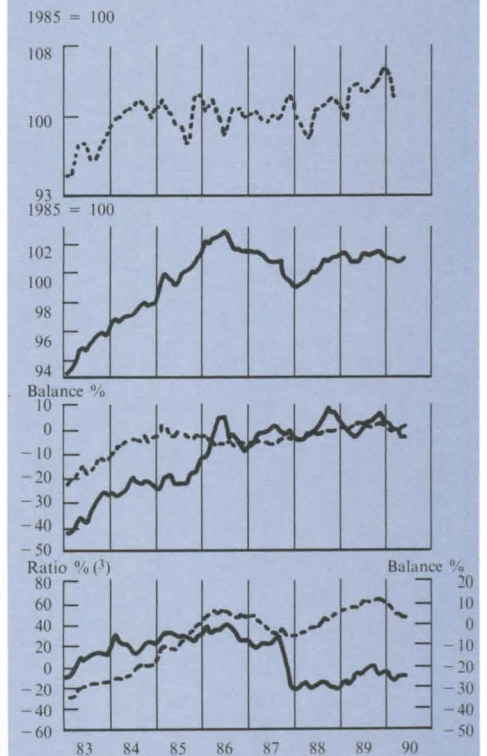
¹ Three-month moving average.
² See notes to Table 3.
³ Deviations from trend in %.

GRAPH 9: Belgium



For explanations, see Graph 8.

GRAPH 10: Netherlands



For explanations, see Graph 8.

TABLE 4: **Monthly survey of manufacturing industry** — Monthly questions and the composite industrial confidence indicator (a)
Balances: i.e. differences between the percentages of respondents giving positive and negative replies (s.a.)

		Ranges (b)				1989		1989		1990		1989		1990				
		Peak 1972/73	Trough 1974/75	Peak 1979/80	Trough 1981/83			III	IV	I		Dec.		Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May
INDUSTRIAL CONFIDENCE INDICATOR	B	19	-56	-4	-35	0	1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-3
	DK	:	:	:	-22	4	5	4	2	:	:	:	2	:	:	:	2	:
	D	10	-49	2	-40	5	5	5	7	6	7	7	7	7	7	7	8	8
	GR	:	:	:	:	0	1	-2	2	1	5	1	0	0	0	0	2	:
	E	:	:	:	:	-3	-3	-5	-7	-7	-6	-8	-8	-11	-15	-15	-15	-15
	F	29	-49	5	-39	8	8	4	0	3	1	0	-1	-4	-3	-3	-3	-3
	IRL	:	-41	20	-40	10	11	12	4	10	8	5	-1	5	0	0	0	0
	I	31	-59	13	-41	8	7	3	5	3	5	5	4	3	5	5	5	5
	L	:	:	16	-65	0	-7	-10	-4	-15	-13	-4	-2	-1	-6	-6	-6	-6
	NL	12	-44	4	-31	1	1	1	0	0	-1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
	P	:	:	11	-25	-1	-2	-1	-5	-1	-6	-5	-5	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4
	UK	:	:	9	-60	-2	-3	-10	-12	-10	-8	-12	-16	-10	-14	-14	-14	-14
	EUR	16	-49	3	-36	4	4	1	0	1	1	0	-1	0	-1	0	-1	-1
PRODUCTION EXPECTATIONS	B	31	-56	-4	-37	7	6	8	8	11	9	6	9	8	0	0	0	0
	DK	:	:	:	8	13	12	13	14	:	14	:	:	15	:	:	:	:
	D	17	-32	10	-30	10	11	11	11	13	13	11	10	10	12	12	12	12
	GR	:	:	:	:	20	23	18	26	22	27	25	25	24	25	25	25	25
	E	:	:	18	-20	11	11	14	9	11	15	6	6	5	1	1	1	1
	F	33	-29	18	-20	15	15	13	10	10	11	10	8	8	7	7	7	7
	IRL	:	-21	40	-33	20	23	26	18	24	27	14	13	14	9	9	9	9
	I	40	-43	24	-26	24	25	20	23	19	25	22	21	22	24	24	24	24
	L	84	-80	40	-66	7	-2	7	8	13	16	6	9	15	6	6	6	6
	NL	26	-26	20	-13	8	6	9	7	7	5	8	7	7	7	7	7	7
	P	:	:	30	-13	12	12	14	12	16	11	11	14	15	13	13	13	13
	UK	:	:	29	-52	11	10	3	-2	3	4	-4	-5	4	-1	-1	-1	-1
	EUR	24	-30	15	-24	14	14	12	11	12	14	10	9	11	10	10	10	10
ORDER BOOKS	B	13	-74	-14	-49	-4	-4	-8	-5	-8	-5	-5	-4	-5	-6	-6	-6	-6
	DK	:	:	:	-34	8	11	9	7	:	7	:	:	-1	:	:	:	:
	D	5	-73	-6	-59	3	4	5	8	6	7	8	9	10	10	10	10	10
	GR	:	:	:	:	-14	-13	-16	-10	-14	-8	-10	-12	-10	-7	-7	-7	-7
	E	26	-45	:	:	-8	-8	-12	-13	-13	-14	-14	-11	-19	-25	-25	-25	-25
	F	26	-69	0	-56	11	12	5	1	4	2	3	-2	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5
	IRL	:	-68	18	-55	9	10	10	0	6	5	2	-7	6	-9	-9	-9	-9
	I	30	-82	7	-66	4	3	-1	-2	0	-2	-1	-3	-3	-1	-1	-1	-1
	L	:	:	8	-70	-10	-25	-36	-20	-53	-57	-14	-15	-20	-21	-21	-21	-21
	NL	7	-48	-5	-42	-1	0	0	-3	-1	-2	-3	-3	-3	-1	-1	-1	-1
	P	:	:	3	-35	-8	-9	-8	-15	-11	-16	-15	-14	-13	-16	-16	-16	-16
	UK	:	:	-2	-85	-5	-5	-15	-20	-15	-15	-20	-25	-19	-25	-25	-25	-25
	EUR	15	-70	-7	-56	2	2	-2	-3	-2	-2	-3	-4	-4	-6	-6	-6	-6
EXPORT ORDER BOOKS	B	15	-82	-19	-55	-9	-10	-12	-7	-12	-9	-9	-4	-9	-12	-12	-12	-12
	DK	:	:	:	14	15	17	17	15	:	15	:	:	7	:	:	:	:
	D	:	:	-14	-50	-2	-1	-1	0	0	0	0	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2
	GR	:	:	:	:	-23	-21	-27	-18	-33	-17	-19	-18	-17	-22	-22	-22	-22
	E*	:	:	:	:	-20	-22	-24	-22	-25	-21	-23	-22	-25	-26	-26	-26	-26
	F	24	-66	10	-52	11	10	1	-4	-1	-6	-4	-1	-6	-8	-8	-8	-8
	IRL	:	:	:	:	13	19	10	0	11	7	1	-7	6	-21	-21	-21	-21
	I	13	-67	-6	-59	-4	-3	-7	-10	-7	-10	-10	-10	-14	-7	-7	-7	-7
	L	:	:	9	-80	0	-10	-13	-40	-42	-43	-45	-46	-55	-24	-24	-24	-24
	P	:	:	4	-35	-6	-4	-5	-21	-2	-23	-20	-21	-19	-22	-22	-22	-22
	UK	:	:	-11	-72	-10	-8	-11	-1	-8	0	-3	-1	-6	-2	-2	-2	-2
	EUR	:	:	-12	-50	-2	-1	-4	-3	-4	-3	-4	-3	-6	-6	-6	-6	-6
STOCKS OF FINISHED PRODUCTS	B	-14	37	2	18	1	0	2	3	2	4	1	4	4	4	4	4	4
	DK	:	:	:	24	8	9	11	15	:	15	:	:	8	:	:	:	:
	D	-7	43	-2	31	0	-1	0	-1	0	-1	-2	-1	-4	-3	-3	-3	-3
	GR	:	:	:	:	8	7	8	9	4	5	11	12	15	12	12	12	12
	E	-17	24	15	35	12	11	15	18	18	19	17	19	20	22	22	22	22
	F	-14	50	3	42	3	2	5	10	5	9	12	10	14	10	10	10	10
	IRL	:	35	-6	33	0	0	-1	6	-1	8	1	8	4	0	0	0	0
	I	-24	53	-8	32	5	8	9	7	9	8	7	7	9	8	8	8	8
	L	-14	74	0	58	-2	-6	2	1	6	-1	4	0	-3	3	3	3	3
	NL	-3	57	3	39	3	3	4	4	5	5	2	4	3	3	3	3	3
	P	:	:	1	26	7	9	10	13	9	14	11	14	13	16	16	16	16
	UK	:	:	-1	42	12	12	17	15	17	14	13	19	15	17	17	17	17
	EUR	-10	48	-1	31	5	5	8	7	8	8	7	9	8	8	8	8	8
SELLING-PRICE EXPECTATIONS	B	64	-10	39	12	16	11	11	10	11	9	8	12	5	3	3	3	3
	D	55	4	38	4	19	16	16	17	16	18	18	15	13	17	17	17	17
	GR	:	:	:	:	28	25	30	27	28	31	23	26	31	38	38	38	38
	E*	:	:	:	:	14	9	10	19	14	22	26	9	5	0	0	0	0
	F	76	15	62	17	20	19	17	16	21	14	21	14	19	16	16	16	16
	IRL	:	64	77	20	16	10	15	8	18	7	14	4	1	6	6	6	6
	I	76	10	87	37	28	27	23	25	23	27	25	24	20	20	20	20	20
	L	:	-46	74	-38	17	5	-4	5	-25	11	11	2	14	6	6	6	6
	P*	:	:	:	:	24	24	26	25	32	27	27	20	17	14	14	14	14
	UK	:	:	70	7	27	30	25	24	23	27	21	23	28	26	26	26	26
	EUR	64	9	53	22	23	22	20	20	20	21	21	18	19	19	19	19	19

(a) The indicator is an average of the responses (balances) to the questions on production expectations, order-books and stocks (the latter with inverted sign).

(b) These are the extreme (high and low) values of the balances of the different questions, reached in the course of 1972-1975 and 1979-1983, respectively.

Note: (s.a.) = seasonally adjusted.

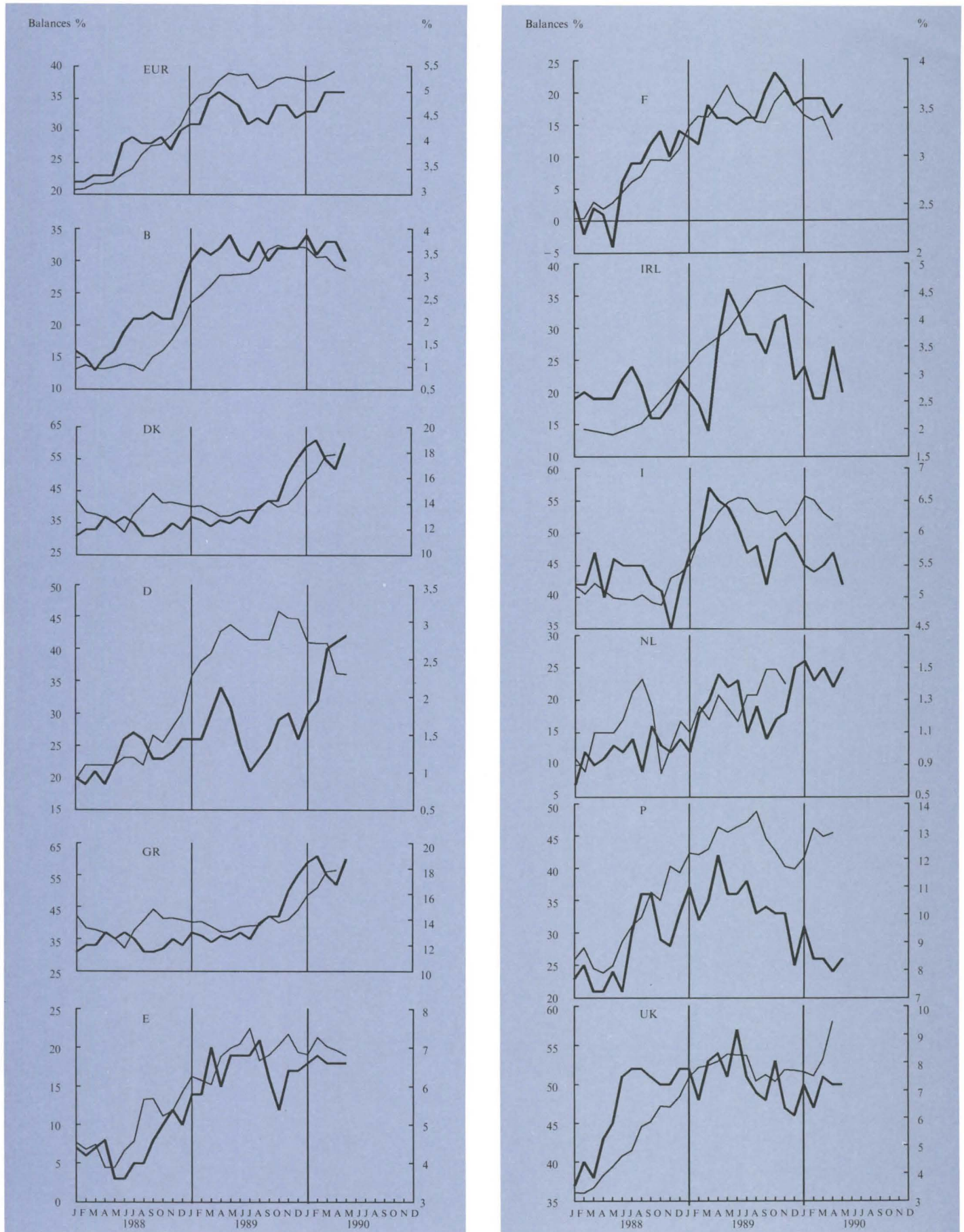
: = not available.

() = estimated.

* = figures not s.a.

Source: European Community business surveys.

GRAPH 11: Consumers' expectations¹⁾ of inflation (—; left-hand scale) and price changes²⁾ (—; right-hand scale)



¹⁾ For the next 12 months seasonally adjusted;

²⁾ Consumer price index: changes over 12 months (%).

Sources: European Community consumer survey; Commission services.

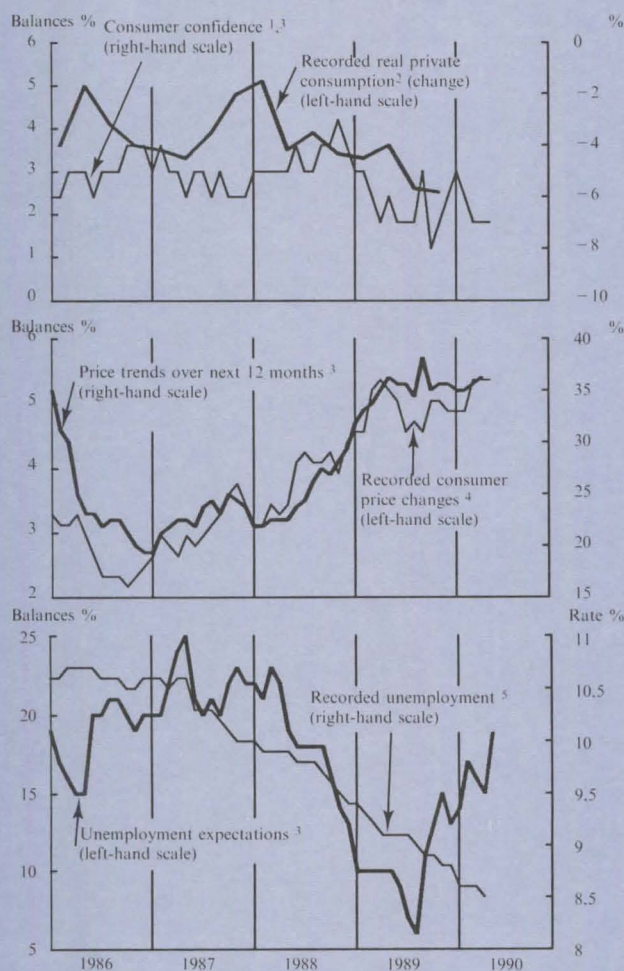
TABLE 5: Results of business surveys in the retail trade (a) (b) (f)

		1988					1989												1990				
		Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	Apr.	May
PRESENT BUSINESS SITUATION	B(d)	0	5	-15	4	0	2	1	9	2	-3	-12	-10	19	7	15	6	13	22	24	31	25	18
	D	-8	4	-8	1	2	-2	-2	4	-7	-9	-8	-7	-1	-2	3	11	21	10	15	18	12	29
	E	:	-1	-18	-28	-30	-24	-23	-1	-7	-26	-17	-20	-21	-34	-25	-27	-28	-33	-30	-33	-29	-26
	F(c)	:	-11	:	-10	:	-6	:	-15	:	-6	:	2	:	-2	:	-10	:	12	:	-1	:	-7
	I(c)(d)	:	11	:	6	:	9	:	1	:	3	:	3	:	9	:	8	:	6	:	-1	:	:
	NL	31	37	41	31	38	38	28	44	36	42	48	43	48	39	38	40	45	43	39	47	55	53
	P	:	:	:	:	:	7	2	-7	-9	-7	-3	-11	-18	-15	-13	-12	-3	-13	-4	-4	-20	-12
	UK(e)	46	17	8	27	24	15	-2	14	10	15	12	3	7	-4	-2	-6	5	17	1	8	3	-6
	EUR	(4)	5	(-1)	3	(3)	2	(-1)	3	(-2)	-1	(0)	-1	(2)	-2	(1)	0	(5)	8	(7)	(5)	(3)	:
VOLUME OF STOCKS	B(d)	12	5	-6	15	18	10	13	3	11	10	15	15	10	15	10	19	12	4	4	1	7	6
	D	22	23	29	23	27	19	18	23	21	20	22	17	16	17	21	11	17	12	18	12	13	10
	E	:	-1	-2	-8	-10	-7	-4	13	-9	1	4	-13	6	5	4	3	7	3	4	7	8	11
	F(c)	:	17	:	24	:	12	:	14	:	19	:	16	:	5	:	17	:	11	:	13	:	20
	I(c)(d)	:	16	:	24	:	20	:	15	:	25	:	24	:	16	:	24	:	27	:	24	:	:
	NL	11	12	11	13	12	9	10	10	9	11	10	7	1	8	11	9	6	8	12	9	11	10
	P	:	:	:	:	:	10	19	21	15	14	11	22	18	1	21	14	17	16	8	20	22	13
	UK	1	-3	9	13	19	15	19	27	21	19	20	22	19	15	20	33	28	23	14	23	17	25
	EUR	(16)	12	(15)	18	(20)	13	(14)	18	(14)	18	(19)	15	(16)	12	(14)	18	(18)	15	(15)	(15)	(15)	:
INTENTIONS OF PLACING ORDERS	B(d)	6	12	-6	1	-10	7	4	0	6	-5	-10	7	23	14	10	12	7	12	14	17	4	-1
	D	-2	6	-2	-6	-3	-1	-5	1	-2	-6	-5	1	1	7	6	2	2	4	6	9	6	10
	E	:	12	7	6	-3	-11	1	14	20	9	-2	-6	-12	-5	18	13	-2	16	18	26	18	5
	F(c)	:	-13	:	-15	:	-26	:	-13	:	-24	:	-22	:	-5	:	-12	:	-18	:	-8	:	-12
	I(c)(d)	:	-5	:	-8	:	-6	:	-13	:	-16	:	-12	:	2	:	-6	:	-10	:	-4	:	:
	NL	-1	-3	10	6	13	10	19	19	11	9	12	17	19	16	19	10	14	20	22	23	14	16
	P	:	:	:	:	:	-4	-6	6	-10	-13	-20	-22	-30	-20	-9	-1	-23	10	2	1	-2	-11
	UK	41	38	33	20	4	14	8	11	11	12	2	-5	11	5	-2	-15	-8	8	9	9	5	-10
	EUR	(0)	6	(3)	-1	(-5)	-5	(-5)	0	(-1)	-6	(-9)	-7	(-4)	2	(3)	-4	(-4)	0	(1)	(6)	(3)	:
EXPECTED BUSINESS SITUATION	B(d)	15	17	3	11	-7	19	26	18	8	-4	-6	16	34	16	12	19	7	7	25	14	7	-7
	D	9	12	6	-2	9	6	14	1	8	2	10	11	13	13	12	19	14	14	16	18	21	
	E	:	27	14	12	7	15	23	47	40	24	24	18	10	22	20	22	13	28	30	32	27	20
	F(c)	:	-23	:	-24	:	-31	:	-23	:	-17	:	-20	:	-5	:	-12	:	-19	:	-14	:	-15
	I(c)(d)	:	7	:	3	:	10	:	-3	:	-1	:	1	:	14	:	7	:	6	:	8	:	:
	NL	19	19	26	22	32	29	35	43	30	29	33	34	38	33	35	31	35	39	35	38	34	36
	P	:	:	:	:	:	15	11	23	7	18	8	8	-2	5	18	8	7	42	23	37	33	20
	UK	43	:	:	20	:	:	20	:	:	14	:	:	2	:	:	-14	:	:	1	:	:	-1
	EUR	(4)	(11)	(8)	1	(3)	4	(7)	6	(6)	3	(5)	(5)	(3)	(9)	:	4	(4)	3	(7)	(9)	:	:

(a) not seasonally adjusted; (b) percentage balances; (c) bi-monthly; (d) excl. large multiple shops; (e) refers to volume of sales for the time of the year. (f) Spain participates in the retail trade business survey from September 1988 onwards and Portugal from January 1989 onwards.

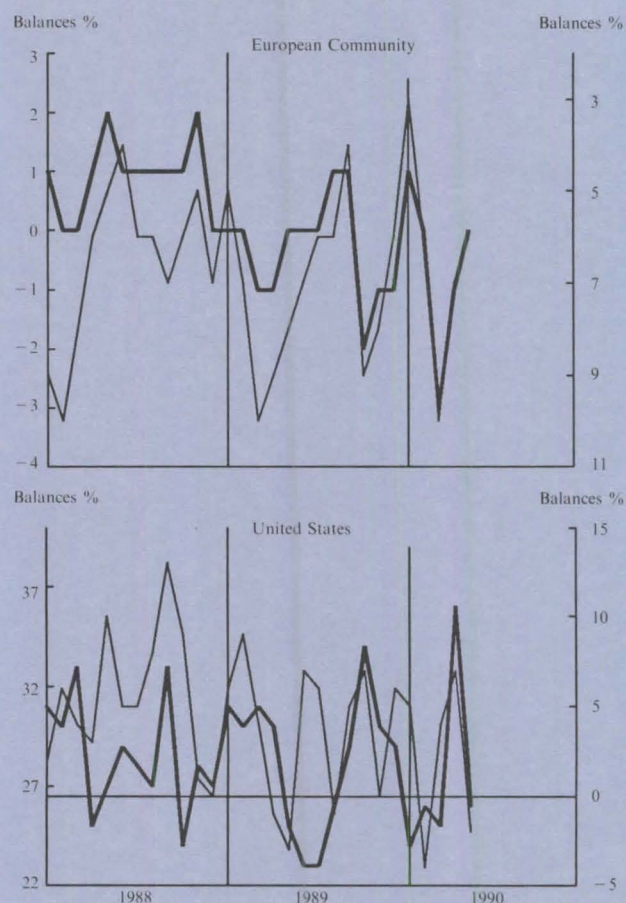
(-) = estimation.

Source: EC Survey in the retail trade.

GRAPH 12: Consumer survey results and objective economic indicators — European Community⁶

For notes, Table 6.

Sources: European Community consumer survey and Eurostat.

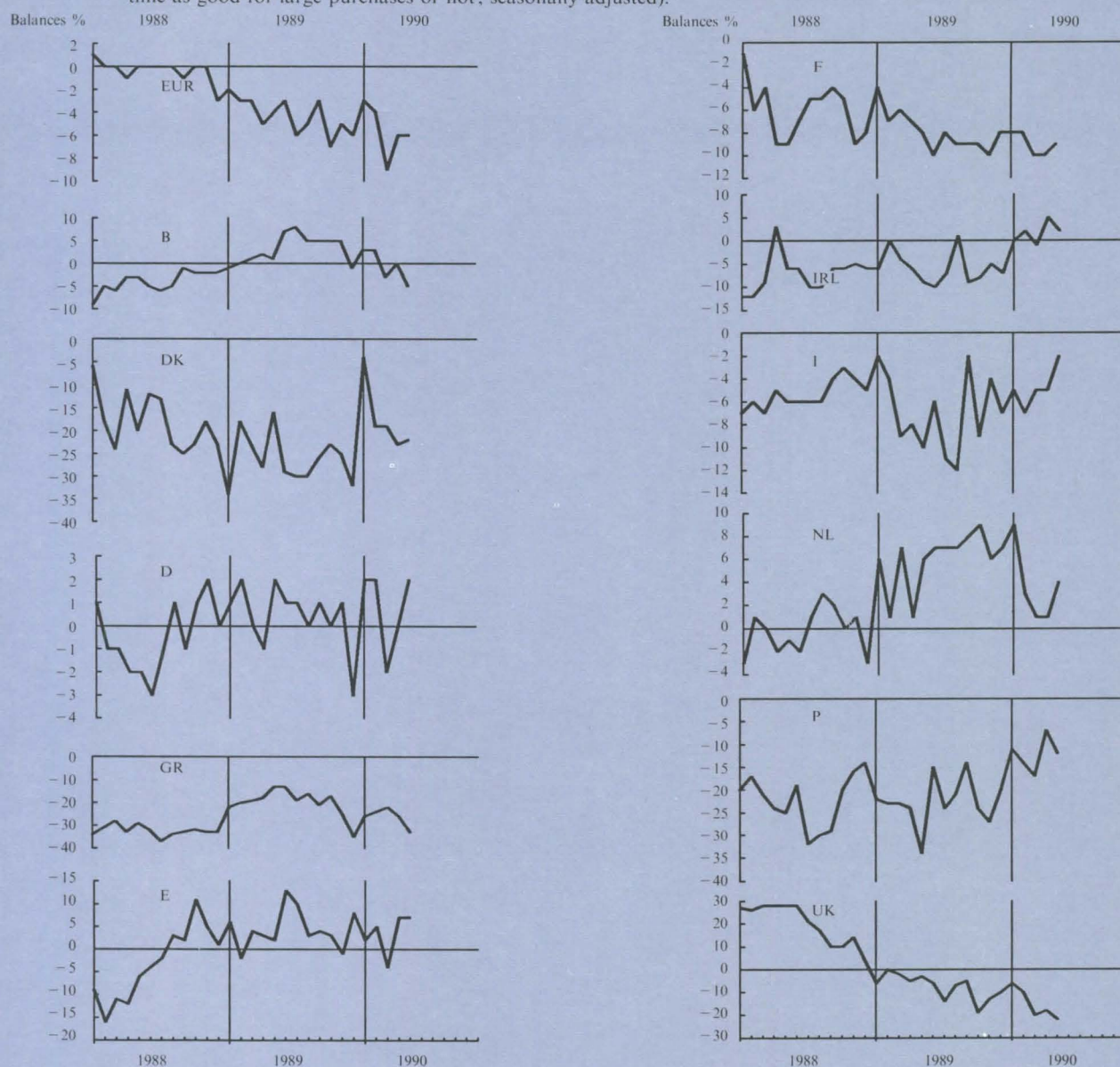
GRAPH 13: Consumers' expectations¹ of their financial situation (—; left-hand scale) and of the general economic situation (—; right-hand scale)²

¹ Over the next 12 months.

² Not seasonally adjusted.

Sources: European Community: European Community consumer survey; United States: University of Michigan; Institute for Social Research.

GRAPH 14: **Buying attitudes of consumers.** (Balances: i.e. differences between the percentage of respondents giving answers regarding present time as good for large purchases or not; seasonally adjusted).



Source: European Community consumer survey.

TABLE 6: **Consumer opinion on economic and financial conditions (a)**

		1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1989				1990				
									Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE INDICATOR (b)	B	-28	-27	-21	-16	-11	-6	1	3	3	4	3	3	5	2	1	1
	DK	0	6	3	-3	-9	-14	-14	-15	-13	-13	-10	-4	-8	-5	-8	-8
	D	-15	-10	-8	3	-1	-4	1	3	1	2	3	6	5	1	4	4
	GR	-11	-4	-5	-19	-28	-20	-13	-11	-11	-18	-23	-25	-26	-25	-24	-26
	E	:	:	:	-5	-8	-2	1	0	1	0	3	1	2	0	1	1
	F	-15	-23	-22	-13	-17	-11	-11	-12	-12	-11	-11	-10	-11	-9	-10	-12
	IRL	-39	-33	-28	-27	-28	-16	-7	-5	-7	-6	-4	-3	-6	-5	-4	-3
	I	-24	-15	-11	-4	-3	-4	-6	-3	-7	-5	-6	-4	-4	-3	-2	-1
	NL	-30	-22	-7	4	-2	1	9	10	11	11	10	10	7	7	6	6
	P	:	:	:	-4	0	-7	-10	-7	-10	-9	-7	-6	-6	-6	-1	1
	UK	-3	-4	-11	-7	-4	2	-18	-15	-26	-24	-21	-19	-22	-30	-29	-31
EUR (c)		-15	-14	-13	-5	-5	-5	-6	-5	-8	-7	-6	-5	-6	-7	-7	-7
FINANCIAL SITUATION OF HOUSEHOLDS	B	-29	-31	-26	-14	-8	-5	-2	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	-1	0
	DK	-4	-2	-3	-1	-1	-4	-5	-5	-6	-6	-6	-4	-3	-1	-5	1
	D	-14	-11	-8	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	4	4	3	4
	GR	-13	-8	-7	-24	-32	-21	-13	-11	-14	-14	-17	-26	-28	-27	-26	-28
	E	:	:	:	-6	-9	-4	-3	-3	-2	-2	0	-5	-4	-3	-6	-3
	F	-11	-15	-15	-11	-14	-9	-7	-8	-9	-7	-7	-7	-8	-5	-7	-6
	IRL	-43	-42	-36	-34	-31	-23	-17	-15	-17	-16	-18	-18	-19	-18	-16	-14
	I	-15	-12	-10	-6	-4	-3	-4	-3	-4	-3	-5	-4	-1	-3	-1	-1
	NL	-28	-26	-16	-3	0	2	7	7	9	9	9	7	8	11	11	10
	P	:	:	:	-5	-2	-5	-8	-6	-7	-5	-7	-6	-8	-6	-4	-1
	UK	-15	-15	-16	-13	-5	-6	-17	-18	-22	-24	-21	-21	-23	-26	-25	-32
EUR (c)		-15	-15	-13	-7	-6	-5	-6	-6	-6	-6	-6	-6	-6	-6	-6	-7

— over last 12 months

TABLE 6 (continued): Consumer opinion on economic and financial conditions (a)

		1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1989				1990				
									Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May
FINANCIAL SITUATION OF HOUSEHOLDS (continued)	B	-15	-18	-14	-5	-1	2	3	4	3	5	4	4	5	5	4	4
	DK	0	3	3	2	2	1	0	-1	2	2	3	2	3	4	3	5
	D	-9	-6	-4	2	1	-1	1	0	1	2	3	4	4	1	2	3
	GR	0	6	5	-11	-20	-12	-2	0	1	-8	-11	-14	-15	-11	-9	-16
	E	:	:	:	1	2	5	5	4	5	5	8	4	4	5	5	3
	F	-4	-7	-5	-2	-4	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	2	0
	IRL	-26	-22	-16	-14	-14	-9	-5	-3	-5	-4	-2	-4	-6	-5	-5	-5
	I	-8	-3	-2	1	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	1	4	3	5	4
	NL	-21	-17	-6	2	2	4	8	8	10	9	10	7	6	9	6	7
	P	:	:	:	1	4	-1	-2	0	-3	0	1	1	2	2	6	8
— over next 12 months	UK	-2	-3	-5	-3	4	1	-9	-7	-16	-14	-12	-10	-12	-23	-17	-16
	EUR (c)	-7	-8	-4	-1	1	1	0	1	-2	-1	0	0	0	-2	-1	-1
GENERAL ECONOMIC SITUATION	B	-62	-57	-37	-27	-19	-16	-1	2	3	3	4	3	8	4	1	1
	DK	-4	4	2	-9	-20	-28	-24	-23	-23	-24	-11	-11	-12	-7	-11	-15
	D	-29	-14	-10	7	-2	-9	4	11	5	8	9	13	12	7	12	11
	GR	-11	-4	-7	-27	-33	-22	-22	-23	-26	-29	-38	-47	-47	-49	-51	-51
	E	:	:	:	-8	-17	-9	-4	-6	-3	-2	-3	-1	0	-2	-2	-2
	F	-41	-54	-52	-34	-39	-28	-26	-29	-28	-27	-26	-25	-24	-24	-25	-29
	IRL	-77	-65	-60	-57	-58	-30	-11	-5	-9	-9	-4	-5	-8	-8	-7	-2
	I	-57	-36	-25	-10	-6	-12	-18	-15	-17	-18	-14	-12	-14	-10	-11	-8
	NL	-54	-19	7	17	-1	1	18	19	19	20	17	19	15	16	13	9
	P	:	:	:	-3	5	-5	-13	-11	-13	-9	-8	-12	-7	-6	-3	1
— over last 12 months	UK	-23	-25	-36	-29	-4	-4	-36	-34	-48	-48	-43	-43	-45	-51	-54	-59
	EUR (c)	-37	-31	-27	-14	-13	-13	-14	-12	-16	-16	-13	-11	-13	-14	-15	-16
— over next 12 months	B	-38	-33	-19	-12	-8	-6	2	2	4	7	5	3	8	4	1	5
	DK	3	6	4	-6	-13	-19	-15	-17	-13	-13	-2	-4	-9	-1	-6	-9
	D	-14	-10	-6	2	-7	-12	-1	1	-3	-2	4	6	3	-4	0	1
	GR	6	10	6	-12	-20	-13	-6	-3	-2	-12	-12	-14	-19	-5	-7	-4
	E	:	:	:	1	-2	2	2	0	2	3	4	5	5	2	2	1
	F	-36	-45	-32	-16	-23	-11	-13	-15	-14	-13	-13	-12	-12	-11	-12	-15
	IRL	-45	-29	-25	-24	-28	-10	2	8	4	6	10	9	4	3	2	6
	I	-25	-9	-7	3	-2	-2	-6	-1	-4	-4	-3	-1	0	1	3	4
	NL	-28	-5	8	10	-7	-3	8	10	9	10	9	10	5	3	1	0
	P	:	:	:	2	7	-2	-6	-6	-7	-4	-2	-4	-3	0	5	7
PRICE TRENDS	UK	-5	-10	-15	-13	3	-5	-19	-15	-26	-23	-18	-18	-22	-33	-30	-26
	EUR (c)	-21	-18	-14	-5	-7	-7	-7	-5	-9	-7	-5	-4	-5	-8	-7	-7
— over last 12 months	B	78	78	72	48	31	23	38	40	43	41	42	47	43	46	46	44
	DK	26	26	26	10	0	2	3	5	6	5	1	-3	-2	-2	-6	-8
	D	23	15	9	-15	-13	-2	17	17	20	24	20	23	23	23	18	19
	GR	30	24	22	38	41	25	25	27	28	33	38	46	49	46	45	53
	E	:	:	:	26	34	28	43	40	38	41	44	46	43	48	44	45
	F	55	58	44	12	12	5	17	20	22	21	24	25	22	22	21	22
	IRL	80	71	58	47	34	28	31	31	38	35	35	33	22	27	28	24
	I	69	55	49	35	28	34	44	42	45	45	45	45	45	44	44	43
	NL	43	41	21	-2	-17	-11	-4	-7	-4	-9	-5	3	2	1	-2	1
	P	:	:	:	17	29	44	55	60	58	55	51	53	53	49	49	50
— over next 12 months	UK	15	19	24	15	11	17	36	35	40	40	37	38	41	44	45	45
	EUR (c)	40	37	30	14	11	14	28	28	30	31	31	32	32	33	32	31
— over next 12 months	B	40	37	33	25	17	19	32	30	32	32	32	34	31	33	33	30
	DK	12	16	14	6	5	4	0	4	0	4	0	5	-3	-5	-8	6
	D	30	28	24	5	12	23	27	25	29	30	26	30	32	40	41	42
	GR	37	38	37	42	45	34	40	42	42	50	55	59	61	55	52	60
	E	:	:	:	10	15	12	22	21	17	22	22	23	24	23	23	23
	F	37	32	26	17	11	6	17	20	23	21	18	19	19	19	16	18
	IRL	39	35	30	22	24	20	27	26	31	32	22	24	19	19	27	20
	I	54	46	46	33	39	43	50	42	49	50	48	45	44	45	47	42
	NL	38	25	16	6	2	12	19	14	17	18	25	26	23	25	22	25
	P	:	:	:	6	14	27	35	34	33	33	25	31	26	26	24	26
UNEMPLOYMENT	UK	27	40	41	31	34	47	51	48	53	47	46	50	47	51	50	50
	EUR (c)	35	35	31	19	22	26	33	31	34	34	32	33	33	36	36	36
— over next 12 months	B	57	44	33	30	33	21	8	6	7	10	9	8	5	4	7	4
	DK	30	5	-4	1	27	33	28	27	22	20	17	20	22	13	15	25
	D	30	20	15	4	18	25	11	14	19	27	21	21	30	31	22	25
	GR	10	11	12	26	31	22	19	19	18	26	31	34	37	32	25	33
	E	:	:	:	13	27	18	7	8	6	3	0	-4	6	6	3	6
	F	41	62	47	31	38	27	16	20	15	24	20	18	13	10	17	22
	IRL	67	52	46	44	44	32	17	14	10	6	6	5	15	11	8	8
	I	57	49	44	36	38	39	29	26	29	28	26	27	28	29	26	27
	NL	67	36	0	-10	8	13	-1	-6	-5	-7	-8	-10	-8	-8	-1	3
	P	:	:	:	12	12	8	4	1	4	1	1	5	4	2	2	0
— over next 12 months	UK	37	32	34	31	7	-3	4	8	15	13	14	17	22	18	24	25
	EUR (c)	41	38	30	22	25	22	14	15	16	19	17	17	20	19	18	22

TABLE 6 (continued): Consumer opinion on economic and financial conditions (a)

		1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1989				1990				
									Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May
— at present	MAJOR PURCHASES																
	B	6	6	-6	-23	-18	-4	3	5	5	5	-1	3	3	-3	0	-5
	DK	7	14	12	0	-13	-18	-26	-26	-23	-25	-32	-4	-19	-19	-23	-22
	D	-8	-9	-6	3	3	-1	0	1	0	1	-3	2	2	-2	0	2
	GR	-35	-24	-20	-20	-34	-32	-20	-21	-17	-25	-35	-26	-24	-22	-26	-33
	E	:	:	:	-13	-12	-3	4	4	3	-1	8	2	5	-4	7	7
	F	19	6	-6	-3	-7	-6	-8	-9	-9	-10	-8	-8	-8	-10	-10	-9
	IRL	-6	-9	-2	-8	-10	-7	-6	-9	-8	-5	-7	0	2	-1	5	2
	I	-13	-15	-13	-7	-7	-5	-7	-2	-9	-4	-7	-5	-7	-5	-5	-2
	NL	-18	-44	-25	-5	-3	0	6	8	9	6	7	9	3	1	1	4
	P	:	:	:	-14	-14	-22	-23	-14	-24	-27	-20	-11	-14	-17	-7	-12
	UK	32	31	21	21	20	20	-8	-5	-19	-13	-10	-6	-10	-20	-18	-22
— over next 12 months	EUR (c)	5	0	-3	0	-1	0	-4	-3	-7	-5	-6	-3	-4	-9	-6	-6
	B	-30	-28	-27	-25	-18	-14	-13	-12	-12	-13	-11	-13	-10	-12	-15	-14
	DK	-8	-7	-8	-11	-11	-12	-13	-14	-13	-15	-12	-10	-13	-11	-12	-11
	D	-29	-28	-21	-16	-15	-16	-15	-15	-15	-14	-15	-13	-15	-14	-15	-15
	GR	-33	-38	-31	-40	-43	-37	-32	-38	-31	-33	-38	-33	-30	-30	-27	-32
	E	:	:	:	-13	-21	-20	-20	-22	-19	-20	-15	-21	-19	-24	-27	-28
	F	-10	-10	-9	-3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	IRL	-31	-25	-21	-19	-17	-12	-8	-8	-6	-7	-10	-9	-12	-7	-9	-8
	I	-22	-21	-20	-20	-20	-20	-19	-19	-17	-19	-19	-20	-19	-19	-16	-19
	NL	-29	-27	-19	-14	-11	-11	-10	-9	-11	-11	-8	-11	-9	-11	-9	-10
	P	:	:	:	3	4	3	6	1	0	-1	-1	5	7	6	9	10
	UK	-15	-12	-13	-12	-9	-10	-13	-10	-15	-13	-16	-11	-15	-19	-20	-19
	EUR (c)	-21	-19	-16	-13	-13	-13	-13	-12	-13	-12	-13	-12	-13	-14	-14	-14
— at present	SAVINGS																
	B	46	46	45	41	49	54	57	58	59	63	57	64	59	60	60	60
	DK	40	41	48	44	48	46	48	53	52	51	56	50	56	60	49	52
	D	33	38	37	40	39	31	40	45	41	50	46	45	47	49	46	46
	GR	-29	-20	-16	-29	-38	-35	-25	-26	-25	-34	-38	-41	-37	-34	-39	-41
	E	:	:	:	20	42	42	45	46	49	41	43	45	45	42	34	35
	F	0	6	10	11	20	24	30	31	32	33	35	35	37	36	38	38
	IRL	-3	-8	-1	-3	-7	1	10	15	18	9	17	23	9	18	16	17
	I	21	33	34	44	46	45	44	49	37	46	43	45	43	50	45	50
	NL	35	34	39	46	48	52	57	57	55	58	57	56	58	60	55	58
	P	:	:	:	-22	-24	-35	-39	-30	-40	-37	-33	-27	-26	-27	-25	-30
	UK	10	17	18	20	27	27	31	27	28	31	33	30	31	32	36	37
	EUR (c)	19	24	27	28	33	32	36	38	36	39	39	39	39	41	40	41
— over next 12 months	B	-26	-27	-28	-9	-3	2	6	6	9	8	10	14	7	8	8	7
	DK	-12	-11	-6	-6	-5	-7	-7	-9	-3	-3	2	-3	-2	0	-6	0
	D	1	3	3	10	12	12	16	18	21	19	20	20	17	21	19	21
	GR	-41	-39	-37	-47	-56	-48	-38	-35	-35	-41	-45	-47	-46	-44	-43	-50
	E	:	:	:	-20	-33	-32	-30	-24	-27	-26	-27	-34	-30	-29	-33	-33
	F	-35	-37	-36	-30	-33	-28	-26	-24	-28	-25	-25	-25	-25	-24	-24	-24
	IRL	-25	-37	-27	-29	-30	-25	-20	-18	-24	-20	-17	-12	-23	-16	-21	-17
	I	-27	-20	-16	-8	-5	-3	-5	-2	-6	0	-4	0	-3	-2	1	0
	NL	-8	-2	6	12	17	24	29	32	29	33	34	32	31	31	35	34
	P	:	:	:	-21	-24	-27	-33	-32	-34	-31	-29	-31	-29	-31	-35	-29
	UK	-13	-12	-14	-12	-7	-7	-12	-10	-18	-18	-15	-15	-19	-21	-21	-19
	EUR (c)	-17	-16	-14	-10	-10	-8	-7	-5	-7	-6	-6	-6	-8	-6	-7	-6
— indicator of net acquisition of financial assets	FINANCIAL SITUATION OF HOUSEHOLDS																
	B	5	6	5	12	13	15	16	18	17	17	19	18	16	18	16	16
	DK	8	8	11	10	10	11	12	10	11	11	14	11	13	14	10	15
	D	11	11	12	16	16	17	20	20	21	20	20	21	20	21	21	21
	GR	0	2	3	1	-2	2	5	6	6	5	4	3	3	2	4	2
	E	:	:	:	3	5	7	8	12	7	5	7	5	6	6	7	7
	F	6	4	2	3	1	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	4
	IRL	-1	-1	0	-1	-1	2	4	5	4	4	4	6	-1	-3	-5	-4
	I	9	11	11	15	16	17	16	17	16	18	15	18	18	18	19	20
	NL	15	13	15	16	18	20	23	23	24	24	25	24	24	24	24	24
	P	:	:	:	1	7	6	6	7	5	8	8	-5	-4	-6	-5	-7
	UK	12	12	10	11	14	15	10	11	6	7	7	7	8	5	5	6
	EUR (c)	9	9	9	11	11	12	13	14	12	12	13	12	12	13	12	13

(a) The sum of the replies for each Member State are weighted in the Community total with the value of consumers' expenditure.

(b) The indicator represents the arithmetic average of results for five questions, namely the two on the financial situation of the household, the two on the general economic situation, and that concerning major purchases at present.

(c) If monthly data are not available, the EUR-averages incorporate the most recent available results.

¹ The climate of consumer confidence is measured by an indicator based on five questions in the consumer survey. These are the questions relating to the general economic situation, the household financial situation and to major purchases of durable goods.

² Quarterly data: percentage change on corresponding quarter of preceding year.

³ See table 6 for data and notes.

⁴ Percentage changes on corresponding period of preceding year.

⁵ Seasonally adjusted.

⁶ EUR 10 up to May 1986; EUR 12 from June 1986 onwards.

Source: European Community consumer survey.

Institutes carrying out the surveys

Country	Survey: Manufacturing industry	Construction	Investment	Retail sale	Consumer
Belgium	BNB Banque Nationale de Belgique	BNB	BNB	BNB	DIMARSO Gallup Belgium DS
Denmark	DS Danmarks Statistik	DS	DS		
Federal Republic of Germany	IFO Institut für Wirtschafts- forschung	IFO	IFO	IFO	GfK Marktforschung
Greece	IEIR Institute of Economic and Industrial Research	IEIR	IEIR		NSSG National Statistical Service of Greece INTERGALLUP S.A.
Spain	MIE Ministerio de Industria y Energía		MIE	INTERGALLUP S.A.	
France	INSEE Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques	INSEE	INSEE	INSEE	INSEE
Ireland	CII and ESRI Confederation of Irish Industries and Economic and Social Research Institute	CIF Construction Industry Federation	CII and ESRI		TEAGASC The Agricultural and Food Development Authority ISCO
Italy	ISCO Istituto per lo Studio della Congiuntura	ISCO	ISCO	ISCO	
Luxembourg	STATEC Service Central de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques	STATEC	STATEC		
Netherlands	CBS Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek	EIB Economisch Instituut voor de Bouwnijverheid	CBS	NIPO Nederlands Instituut voor de Publieke Opinie en het Marktonderzoek INE	CBS
Portugal	JNE Instituto Nacional de Estatística	AECOPS Associação de Empresas de Construção e Obras Públicas do Sul BEC	INE		NORMA
United Kingdom	CBI Confederation of British Industry	Building Employers Confederation	BSO Business Statistics Office	CBI	GALLUP Gallup Institute

Questions of European Community business and consumer surveys

Manufacturing industry

Monthly:

- estimate of production trend in recent months: up, unchanged, down?
- order-books: above normal, normal, below normal?
- export order-books: above normal, normal, below normal?
- stocks of finished products: above normal, normal, below normal?
- production expectations in the months ahead: up, unchanged, down?
- selling-price expectations in the months ahead: up, unchanged, down?

Quarterly (January, April, July and October):

- employment expectations for the months ahead: up, unchanged, down?
- limits to production: none, insufficient demand, shortage of labour, lack of equipment, others?
- production capacity: more than sufficient, sufficient, not sufficient?
- duration of assured production: in months?
- new orders in the recent past: up, unchanged, down?
- export volume expectations for the months ahead: up, unchanged, down?
- capacity utilization: in %?
- stocks of raw material: high, normal, low?

All industries

Half-yearly (undertaken in March/April and October/November):

- investment trends and prospects: yearly percentage change of investment expenditure in current money values.

Building industry

Monthly (except for Denmark, Greece, France, Ireland and the United Kingdom, where the survey is carried out quarterly):

- current production compared with the preceding month: up, unchanged, down?
- factors holding up production: none, lack of demand, bad weather, shortage of manpower, shortage of material and/or equipment, others?
- order-books or production schedules: above normal, normal, below normal?
- employment expectations in the months ahead: up, unchanged, down?
- price expectations in the months ahead: up, unchanged, down?

Quarterly (January, April, July and October)

- duration of assured production: in months?

Retail trade sector

Monthly (France and Italy bi-monthly):

- we consider our present business (sales) position to be: good, satisfactory (normal for the season), bad;
- we consider our present stock to be: too small, adequate (normal for the season), too large;
- we expect that our orders placed on suppliers during the next (three) months, excluding purely seasonal variations, will be: up, unchanged, down;
- our business trend over the next six months, excluding purely seasonal variations, will improve, remain unchanged, deteriorate.

Quarterly:

- In the next (three) months, and compared with today, the number of persons we employ will: increase, remain unchanged, decline.

Consumer survey

Monthly:

- Financial situation of your household now compared to 12 months ago: a lot better, a little better, the same, a little worse, a lot worse, don't know.
- Financial situation of your household, prospects over the next 12 months: a lot better, a little better, the same, a little worse, a lot worse, don't know.
- General economic situation in the country now compared to 12 months ago: a lot better, a little better, the same, a little worse, a lot worse, don't know.
- General economic situation in the country, prospects over the next 12 months: a lot better, a little better, the same, a little worse, a lot worse, don't know.
- Price level now compared to 12 months ago: much higher, moderately higher, a little higher, about the same, lower, don't know.
- Price trend over the next 12 months: more rapid increase, same increase, slower increase, stability, slight decrease, don't know.
- Unemployment level in the country over the next 12 months will: increase sharply, increase slightly, remain the same, fall slightly, don't know.
- Major purchases (furniture, washing machine, TV, etc.) at present: yes, right time; neither right nor wrong time; should postpone; don't know.
- Major purchases next 12 months, compared to last 12 months: much more, a little more, the same, a little less, much less, don't know.
- Savings at present, a reasonable time to save: yes, certainly; yes, perhaps; probably not; certainly not; don't know.
- Savings by you or your household over the next 12 months: yes, certainly; yes, perhaps; probably not; certainly not; don't know.
- Financial situation of households at present: financial assets accumulation: borrowing, drawing on savings, just making ends meet, saving a little, saving a substantial amount, don't know.

Economic sentiment indicator

The economic sentiment indicator is a composite measure in which the industrial confidence indicator and the consumer confidence indicator are given equal weight, while the construction confidence indicator and the share-price index are attributed half the weight of each of the other two. The share-price index is included in the composite indicator in ratio-to-trend form, in order to separate short-term or cyclical variations from long-term increases in the value of shares. The long-term trend of the series is calculated using the NBER-Bry-Boschan growth cycle programme. For a fuller description of the economic sentiment indicator and its components, see the technical note in the November 1982 issue of this Supplement.

Industrial confidence indicator

The industrial confidence indicator is the arithmetic average of the answers (balances) to the questions on production expectations, order-books and stocks (the latter with inverted sign).

Construction confidence indicator

The construction confidence indicator is the arithmetic average of the answers (balances) to the questions on order-books and employment expectations.

Consumer confidence indicator

The consumer confidence indicator is the arithmetic average of the answers (balances) to the four questions on the financial situation of households and general economic situation (past and future) together with that on the advisability of making major purchases. For a more detailed description of the consumer confidence indicator see technical note in the December 1982 issue of Supplement C.

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